

Your letterhead

[School Name] Joins Farm-to School Program to Bring Healthy Local Food and Nutritional Information to Students

CITY, MD (DATE) – [School/System Name] is participating in Maryland’s new Farm-to-School program by [cite activities such as: including locally-grown products in school lunches during the school year/during Homegrown School Lunch Week, Sept. 13-17, incorporating lessons on healthy eating and food production in the classroom]. Nearly xxx number of students will have a chance to participate in the program this year.

“This is an exciting way for us to educate students about the benefits of a locally-grown food as a part of a healthy diet,” said xxx. “It also connects students with the source of their food and the economic, environmental and health benefits of eating fresh, nutritious, local products.”

The program, which is implemented on a state level, aims to bring more Maryland-grown products to school lunch rooms and to help educate students about where their food comes, how it is produced, and the benefits of a healthy diet. The Jane Lawton Farm to School Program, so named in honor of the late Maryland House of Delegates member Jane Lawton of District 18, Montgomery County, was created during the 2008 Session of the Maryland General Assembly when *SB 158 Farm-to-School Program - Activities and Promotional Events*, sponsored by Senator Jamie Raskin, was signed into law by Governor Martin O’Malley. In addition to facilitating the procurement of local Maryland produce for school menus, the bill also created Maryland Homegrown School Lunch Week (Sept. 13-17, 2010) to promote Maryland agriculture through school meal and classroom programs and interaction between students and local farmers.

More information about the Farm to School Initiative is available at www.mda.state.md.us/mdfarmtoschool. To learn more about how xxx County School System is participating, contact xxxx.

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